

First Focus



The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter
582 Southwood Drive Eden, NC 27288



Whatever it was that Cullen found had to be mighty interesting...

When I walk the Schnauzers, sometimes I'll let one off the leash to chase squirrels or other critters. Late one night, I let young Cullen run free to chase some rabbits. He took off; the rabbits scattered. Cullen suddenly stopped, ignoring the rabbits, to sniff and paw at the ground. I called several times, but he didn't come. I went after him, ready to discipline him for not obeying. He looked up at me, then back down, again up, then down: he wanted me to come see what he had found. What could be so important, more important to a dog than rabbits and squirrels? There between his front paws lay...a *one dollar bill*.

Money is not important to God, except in so far as it is important to us. Once a rich man asked Jesus how to be saved...and Jesus told him to give away all his wealth. He went away sad, because his money was more important to him than God or Jesus or eternity or anything else. But then, all who put their faith in money or other possessions will live very sad lives. Jesus put his finger on a key truth: *our attitude toward money is a barometer of our spiritual condition*. It reveals our priorities. And God cares a lot about our priorities.

As we enter Stewardship Season, remember that God wants to be our number one priority. When we put Him first, everything else will have its fair place. As we yield ourselves and what we own to Jesus for His service, He will make sure we have what we need to live. In a way, Stewardship Season really culminates not in "Covenant Sunday" but in *Thanksgiving*.

Cullen's dollar still hangs on the door of the refrigerator, a reminder that what we own is little more than a surprising find, a fortuitous gift. It's all grace. I think Cullen would agree.

Dr. Benjamin



SERVING MEALS
TO THE HOMELESS

November 15th

Families For Christ

is responsible for the
meal at Unity



Scripture Readers Needed!
Please sign-up at the
Information Desk!



**WEDNESDAY
FAMILY NIGHT MEAL**
FOOD IS SERVED FROM
5:15 – 6:15 P.M.

Come and join us for a delicious meal and fellowship time with our church family. We need your support for this fellowship/educational ministry of our church.

This is a great opportunity to get to know your church family better. It is also an opportunity for our children to learn more about JESUS through the children's programs.

Adults are invited to the Bible study led by Dr. Benjamin, which begins at 6:15 p.m. and concludes by 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL "THANKSGIVING" MEAL

We will enjoy a special holiday meal on Wednesday, November 18. Our menu will be Ham, Pineapple Casserole, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans and Cornbread with a special dessert. All prepared by our cook, Doris Perkins and her helpers.

See sign ups on Sunday!



HANGING OF THE GREENS - 6 P.M.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2009

Join us as we begin our journey to Bethlehem once again. This special service will explain our Chrismons and their meanings.

Bring your favorite Christmas finger food to share. Beverages will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry Team.



**SHOE BOX DEDICATION
SUNDAY**

Sunday, November 8th
Both Services

See the brochures on the sign up tables with a list of suggested items to include in the boxes. Choose a boy or a girl and mark the age of the child for which you bought gifts. Place the box(es) on the tables in the Worship Center. Our goal is 150 boxes!

"OPERATION OUTREACH"

The deadline for Operation Outreach/Rescue has been extended to Sunday, November 8. Please bring your gifts for the children of Afghanistan to the church to be mailed.

Checks should be made payable to "Baby Heart". Items needed are listed on the flyer you will find on the sign up tables.

****PLEASE NOTE** that the items cannot have American emblems or Christian symbols due to the laws of Afghanistan.

Please place your gifts in the box marked "Operation Outreach" in the Covered Entrance. Checks marked "Baby Heart" may be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday or brought to the church office.

Please keep the children of Afghanistan and our military serving there in your prayers.

The Mission Service Ministry Team will be coordinating this project.

MIKE AND LYNNE EDWARDS OFFERING

This offering, which is a Christmas gift, will be sent to the Edwards family at the end of November. If you wish to give to this offering, please do so ASAP.



YOUNG AT HEARTS
NOVEMBER 17th 12:30 P.M.
COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

Come join us for our YAH covered dish luncheon on Tuesday, November 17. Our program will be a skit and selections from a book of poetry and prose written by our presenters, Mollie Williams from Mayodan and Marilyn Swinson from Stoneville.

Bring your favorite dish and bring a friend. There will be good food, a great program, door prizes, music, Christian fellowship and more.

YAH will go to Mountain Side Annex in Madison on Sunday, November 8, for lunch and to Yanceyville Steak and Grill for dinner on Tuesday, December 1.

THERE WILL BE **NO** DECEMBER YAH COVERED DISH LUNCHEON!



We are truly blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. During Junior's illness and passing we were showered with cards, telephone calls, meals and words of encouragement that helped our family through some tough times from June through September. Junior had a strong faith and knew that our Lord, the Great Physician, would care for him.

Thank you again, for all that you have done and continue to do for our family.

Prayers Always,

Margaret (Dollie) Widel and family



I would like to thank the church family for all of their prayers, cards, phone calls and love shone to me since I have been attending FPC. From the time I walked through the doors of this church, I felt the love and compassion of this congregation. Since June, I have had many obstacles to go through in my life; from having two surgeries within a four day span, to losing my only child in a car accident, then the passing of my (soon-to-be) father-in-law and most recent another unplanned surgery. With my faith, and the love and support of this church family, I was able to pull through these obstacles and move forward.

Thank you, church family, for your love and compassion,

Jack Crowder



To our Church Family,

Thank You so very much for the prayers, thoughts and cards sent during the illness and passing of my father, Floyd Meeks, It is such a blessing to have a wonderful, thoughtful and loving church family.

Peace,

Rick Meeks & Family



The church office will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday!!



November 8th is
"Stock The Pantry" Sunday

Any donations will be accepted. We currently need the following:
Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Peanut Butter, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Tea Bags, Baked Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Canned Soup



**BARIUM SPRINGS
THANKSGIVING OFFERING**

Sunday, November 18, 2009

This annual offering is taken to benefit Barium Springs Home for Children, which serves North Carolina's children and families. Troubled, mistreated and abused children are welcomed and loved in this Christian environment.

Two years ago 80% of all children served would be reunited with their parents or a relative. Today 80% of the children will be put up for adoption. Children are more likely to be abused or mistreated when their parents are under stress and the past two years have been more stressful than in recent years. Many children depend on this ministry for support, acceptance and love.

Please consider helping these children in need of a helping hand in these troubled times. Look for special envelopes in which to place your offering or simply include it in your regular church envelope.



Nov. 24	7 p.m.	Community Thanksgiving Service
Nov. 29	6 p.m.	Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 24	7 p.m.	Candlelight Communion Service
Dec. 27	10 a.m.	ONE Service – <u>NO</u> Enrichment



October was Staff Appreciation month and we would like to thank the congregation for the many acts of kindness shown to us during this time.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and may God bless you as you have blessed us.

The Staff of FPC

December Birthdays

OFFICE LINKS...

Phone: 336-623-3962

Fax: 336-623-2501

Preschool phone: 336-623-4271

Web Site: www.1stpreseden.com

Church email: 1stpreseden@embarqmail.com

(Phone extension #'s are listed beside names)

Interim Pastor: Dr. Benjamin Williams – Ext. 301

E-mail: pastor1stpres@embarqmail.com

Program Coordinator: Pat Smith – Ext. 303

E-mail: patpc@embarqmail.com

Christian Educator: Kim Meeks – Ext. 304

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Office Asst.: Alison McLaughlin – Ext. 300

E-mail: 1stpreseden@embarqmail.com

Treasurer: Beth Chandler – Ext. 305

E-mail: bchandler@embarqmail.com

Parish Assistant: Ron Slaughter – Ext. 302

E-mail: roncslaughter@embarqmail.com

Dir. of Preschool: Lorraine Benthin – Ext. 306

Preschool phone: 623-4271

E-mail: 1stpresedenschool@embarqmail.com

Organist: Cindy Gauldin

Email: cagmusicteach@yahoo.com

Music Worship Leader: Sheri Hopkins

Email: sherihopkins30@yahoo.com

Youth Leader: Gina Richardson – Ext. 352

Email: peacelikearich@yahoo.com

- Dec. 1** John Goodman, Leah Hylton, Kevin Heath
Dec. 2 Charles Burkett
Dec. 3 Margaret Webster, Jason Tilley
Dec. 7 Karen Setliff
Dec. 8 Kenna Hall, Adara Hall
Dec. 9 Todd Widel
Dec. 12 Dan Harrison, Marie Hunter
Dec. 13 Charlie Hall, Sherry Tilley
Dec. 15 Amanda Barnhardt, Randy Price, Larry Helms, Josh Madison, Kaithlyn Vitolo
Dec. 16 John Fulk, Rachel Jones
Dec. 17 Cheryl Lauzau, Holly Biggs
Dec. 19 Tammy Carter
Dec. 20 Betty Matthews, Jan McGuire, Martha Corum, Cheryl Jenkins
Dec. 21 Jakob Lenard, Emma Vitolo
Dec. 22 Jim Hunter
Dec. 23 Leon Phillips
Dec. 25 Jacob Snyder, Rhonda Hale
Dec. 27 Lee Turner
Dec. 30 Mike McDaniel
Dec. 31 LuAnne Payne, Kim Meeks, Zachary Shelton, Brandy McCrickard

This Month's Birthdays



If your name is not in the Birthday list please call the church office

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE (does NOT include Building Fund)		Compared to last year	Building Fund Campaign #3 "Let Your Light Shine"	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
What we needed for week ending 10/25/09	\$10,100	\$10,332	Monthly Needs for Loan Payment	\$16,457	\$213,578
What we received for week ending 10/25/09	\$7,220	\$11,858	Monthly receipts to date for October	\$7,255	\$108,600
Surplus / (deficit)	(\$2,880)	(\$1,526)	Surplus / (deficit)	(\$9,202)	(\$104,978)
What we've spent YEAR-TO-DATE	\$389,784	\$400,852			
What we've received YEAR-TO-DATE	\$377,459	\$404,898			
Surplus / (deficit)	(\$12,325)	\$4,046			

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 582 Southwood Drive
 Eden, NC 27288



PRESORTED STANDARD
 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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 PERMIT NO. 61

SEE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT INSIDE CONCERNING FUTURE NEWSLETTERS!!