

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

Mint Hill, North Carolina

Volume LVII, No. 2, March 2010

www.philadelphiachurch.org



Dear Friends,

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church has been around for 237 years. And when you have that much history, it's inevitable that certain traditions develop. Let me tell you about two of the traditions here at Philadelphia: 1) we have never been very good about our giving, and 2) whenever we have a genuine need, the congregation always steps up to meet that need.

At least one of those traditions is continuing...and I hope the other is as well. In 2008, the most recent year for which statistics are available, our congregation reported an average contribution per member of \$995, which was \$114.30 less than the average for all PC (USA) congregations. Our average contribution per worship attendee, \$1,802, was less than the 2008 PC(USA) average, \$2,175.46. I have always been mystified when I read these statistics because I do not believe that we are a "below average" congregation, yet our giving continues to be below average. As you know, we finished 2009 with a deficit of \$13,000. If our members had simply given the average contribution of other Presbyterians across the country, we would have had a surplus of more than \$75,000!

Now we are entering 2010, and we are beginning the year with a deficit budget. Keeping all budget line items (including salaries) at exactly the same level as 2009, we are still \$23,000 short of what we will need to meet the budget.

This is where I hope our other historical tradition kicks in. Always in the past, when you have learned of a need, you have stepped up to meet that need. Well, we have a need! It's not for a new roof or to repair the furnace; it's more important than that: we need your help to be able to do the things we believe God has called us to do in this place. If every member would increase their giving to the church by \$114.30 (less than \$10 per month) we would not only be able to subscribe our budget, but expand and increase our service to God and to the community. And that's just by becoming average. If our giving were to reflect the kind of above average church that we truly are, who knows what we might be able to do?

Eagerly anticipating your response,

From Lee Koontz, Associate Pastor

How do you communicate? Odds are that you grew up communicating primarily face-to-face with people, but as you got older a steadily increasing percentage of your communication became electronically dependent. You learned you could talk to friends on the phone every afternoon after school. Then, as the personal computer grew into an indispensable apparatus, you began keeping in touch with people through email. I realize it's entirely possible that you did neither of those things, but for the large majority of us alive today, the ways in which we communicate have changed as we have grown. As the telephone conversations and email exchanges have grown in usage over the years, the Christian community has born a responsibility to be an example to the world of how to use these technologies in a healthy and responsible way. Furthermore, we've learned to use these mediums to share the good news of the gospel and minister to people in need.

Now, as we enter the second decade of the twenty-first century, the era in which we live will come to be defined by a fundamental shift in the way that technology is changing the ways we communicate. Not surprisingly, the younger generations among us are growing up into a world in which the primary mode of communication is not face-to-face. An entire generation of young people now utilizes social media such as twitter, facebook, myspace, and instant messages to communicate with the world. Unfortunately, the church in many places has not kept the pace. We either pretend that these social media technologies don't exist or we ignore them altogether. The result is that we are telling entire generations of young people that we don't care enough about them to learn their language, to utilize their technology to share the good news of the gospel with them or minister to them.

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church has decided to begin a new chapter in the way we communicate as followers of Christ. This isn't to say that we are throwing the old forms of communication out the window! You don't need to use a telephone, email, or any other technology in order to be a part of this family. However, those of you who are using social media will see that we are now communicating with you on facebook and twitter. If you haven't found us already, look up our church fanpage on facebook, or follow @philapres on twitter. We hope that you'll appreciate the efforts that we are making to utilize social media in a healthy and responsible way.

And if you aren't familiar with social media such as twitter or facebook, but would like to learn, let us know! You can email me (lee@philadelphiachurch.org) or give me a call and we'll talk about what the church can do to introduce you to a new world of communication. Finally, if you have a gift for utilizing social media or any internet-based technology, please let me know. The church is in desperate need of your gifts, and I'd love to talk about how you might be able to use them in the service of Jesus Christ and his church.

PPC Birthday Endowment Fund

Celebrate your big day by sharing your blessings. Or remember anyone you love by giving a gift to the PPC Birthday Endowment Fund. Each donor and honoree will be acknowledged in the *Philagram*. By growing this fund, our church will be able to use the interest for much needed improvements and repairs to the buildings and grounds of our campus. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex of the sanctuary and chapel and outside the church office.



The following donations have been made to the Birthday Endowment Fund:

In Honor of:

Sue Aycock - from Charles Aycock

Susie Ellington - from Mickey and Anne Ellington

Steve Hall - from Mickey and Anne Ellington

If you made a donation to the Birthday Endowment and it is not listed, please contact the church office.

Operation Medicine Drop

Dispose of your unused, expired prescriptions

Take-back event offers public safe, secure way to dispose of their medications

Who: Safe Kids Mint Hill Police Department

What: Prescription drug take-back event where the public can dispose of expired, unused prescription drugs or over-the-counter medications and keep them out of the wrong hands. Operation Medicine Drop cannot accept biohazard materials.

When: March 16, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Biggam Hall

Why: Unintentional poisoning from prescription medications is on the rise in North Carolina. Since 1999, nearly 4,500 people have died from prescription poisoning. Operation Medicine Drop offers the public a free and convenient option for disposing of their prescription and over-the-counter medications to protect their families and the environment.

-NCDOT-



Don't forget to set your clocks forward at bedtime on March 13!

The Chapel Choir will present their spring musical "Table For Five . . . Thousand!" on Sunday,



March 14, 7 p.m., in the Kerr Building. Come hear the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes as told by our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Admission is free, but please bring a can or two of food to be donated to Loaves & Fishes to help feed our hungry neighbors. For more information call children's choir director Melinda Johnston at 704-545-8318 or call the church office.

Come join the Book Club!

The book club meets the last Monday night of the month at Dilworth Coffee House at Hoods Crossroads Shopping Center (Idlewild & 51) at 7:00. March's choice will be *South of Broad* by Pat Conroy. Come join us!

Welcome Father's House

A Russian-speaking Christian congregation called Father's House is meeting weekly in our chapel on Sunday afternoons. Let's make them feel welcome.



Gifts to the Church

In Memory Of

Evelyn Allen—Molly King, Jean Hargett (Current Fund)

Marla Culp—Melanie Caragher, Jeannett S. Palmer, (Children's Ministry Fund)

Caryl Dellinger—Gary & Ann Brown (Habitat House)

Sara Higgins—Mike Higgins (Habitat House), T. Love (Handbell Choir Fund)

In Honor Of

Tina Ross Duke—Melissa Hoffner Johnson (Columbarium Fund)

Jim & Ann Hutton—Rocky & Cindi Hoffner (Habitat House)

Barry & Jane Long—Rocky & Cindi Hoffner (Habitat House)

Mark & Ginny Setzer—Rocky & Cindi Hoffner (Habitat House)

Dan & Becky Oke—Rocky & Cindi Hoffner (Habitat House)

Tom & Tina Duke—Rocky & Cindi Hoffner (Habitat House)

Five Cents a Meal offering received on second Sundays

The Five-Cents-A-Meal offering continues to be received on the second Sunday of each month to support hunger-fighting programs across the seven counties of the Presbytery of Charlotte.

Deaths:

- 1/26 [Jan Wilkinson] mother of Jamie Forbis
 1/28 Caryl Dellinger
 2/5 [Nell Smith] sister-in-law of Evelyn Horton
 2/8 [Blake Ball] mother of Liz Biggers
 2/8 [Oscar Baker] father of Brenda Roberts

Notes to the Congregation

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the many acts of kindness that you have shown me and my family during my long hospital stay and recovery. All the cards, visits, food prepared and groceries, and especially your prayers have given me encouragement to take each day as it comes.

In Christian love,
 Bob Tucker

I want to thank each and every one of you in the Troop, Pack and PPC for participating in Scouting for Food this year.

Last year Troop 65 donated 505 lbs. of food.

I am very pleased to announce that this year we increased our donations by 93.4% and have donated 977 lbs. of food to Loaves and Fishes.

It is because of your caring hearts and generosity that many people will now have food on their table.

Thank you!!
 YIS, Eileen

March Anniversaries

- 15 Steve & Emily Davis
 15 David & Marnie Gallagher
 17 Mary Katherine & Jim Lykowski
 18 Fred & Martha Brown
 18 Mert & Janet O'Prey
 19 Charlie & Marlene Jones
 22 Tom & Evelyn Moore
 25 Joy & Claudia Long
 27 David & Stephanie Madanski
 27 Ron & Carol Pelt
 31 James & Cathy Blanchard
 31 Mike & Beverly Moser



This year's Easter Eggstravaganza will be Saturday, March 27, from 10 to 11 a.m. Children should bring a basket for the egg hunt. There will be crafts and refreshments in Bigham Hall. Members of Youth Connection need to be at the church by 9 a.m. to help setup. Plastic eggs and candy donations are needed. Candy must be individually wrapped and small enough to fit inside a plastic egg. Please leave your egg and candy donations in the workroom.

It's Easter lily time!

Six-inch potted Easter lilies with 3-5 blooms will be available for \$9.50 this year. The deadline to order is March 28, 2010.

Happy Birthday!

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Ney Freeman | 15 | Clint Lawrence | |
| 1 | Bill Greeson | 16 | Donna Cox | |
| 1 | Jake Harding | 16 | Drew Lawrence | |
| 1 | Bill Johnston | 18 | Ginger Bourgeois | |
| 2 | Bill Griffin | 18 | Nell Eudy | |
| 2 | Cora Lee Lonon | 18 | Sandra Ferguson | |
| 2 | Pam Martin | 18 | Becky Hamilton | |
| 2 | Katie Moore | 18 | Ashley Woody | |
| 3 | Alex Beebe | 19 | Owen Lawrence | |
| 3 | Jennifer Fauser | 20 | Tommie Boon | |
| 3 | Bill Hawkins, Jr. | 20 | Jean Taber | |
| 3 | Lynnette Pritchard | 20 | Kent Winslow | |
| 3 | Gavin Simone | 21 | Adam Cervantes | |
| 4 | Leila Campbell | 21 | Elijah Cervantes | |
| 4 | Alex Davis | 21 | Hailey Cooper | |
| 4 | Jan Ferguson | 21 | Linda Cummins | |
| 4 | Jackson Lohrer | 21 | Patsy Long | |
| 5 | Joe McManus | 22 | Susannah Cox | |
| 5 | Connor Thomas | 22 | Jordan Taylor | |
| 6 | Keith Ensley | 22 | Ashton Yandle | |
| 6 | Charles Whitley | 23 | Barry King | |
| 7 | Donna Gray | 23 | Richard Long | |
| 7 | Joyce Kjos | 23 | Mark Moss | |
| 7 | Eric Randall | 25 | Linda Davenport | |
| 8 | Lindsay Greene | 25 | Joan Davis | |
| 8 | Mark Jetton, Sr. | 25 | Wally Leaver | |
| 9 | Dean Ferguson | 25 | Anne Peshel | |
| 12 | Larry Black | 25 | Elizabeth Phillips | |
| 12 | Benny Davis | 26 | Tricia Bursery | |
| 12 | Tom Duke | 26 | Joe Smith | |
| 12 | Aeron Ferguson | 26 | Taylor West | |
| 12 | Kathy Duncan | 27 | Jody Briner | |
| 12 | Angela McIntosh | 27 | Lester Gulledge | |
| 13 | Linda Conley | 27 | Betty Long | |
| 13 | Lucille Furr | 27 | Jack McMackin | |
| 13 | Claudia Long | 27 | Carolyn Williams | |
| 13 | SuLena Long | 28 | Susan Allred | |
| 13 | Carson Moore | 28 | Gary Brown | |
| 14 | Cathy Davis | 28 | Cindy Woller | |
| 14 | Julie Duke | 29 | Eric Jaeger | |
| 14 | Isaac Griffin | 30 | David Andrews | |
| 14 | Sherry Knotts | 31 | Clint Bartlett | |
| 14 | Jamie Porter | 31 | Matthew Foreman | |
| 14 | Jack Shearin | 31 | Larry Harding | |
| | | | 31 | Chuck Taylor |



Attention, High School Seniors!

Application forms for the Elizabeth Caldwell Junker, the Frances MeEwen Hunter and James Lee Miller, Jr. Scholarships are available in the information rack outside the church office. Deadline for their return is April 1.





Monday, March 1

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Training—Heritage Room
 6:30 p.m.—Scouts
 7:00 p.m.—Christian Education Ministry Mtg.—Session Rm.
 8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 2

10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #1—Heritage Rm.
 10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #2—Fred Brown Classroom
 10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #4—PW Parlor
 6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building
 6:30 p.m.—Congregational Shepherding Team—Session Room
 6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts
 7:00 p.m.—Youth Committee Mtg.—Youth Room

Wednesday, March 3

Wonderful Wednesday Program
 6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
 7:30 p.m.—Finance Ministry Team Mtg.—Session Room
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, March 4

5:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.
 6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
 7:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut
 7:00 p.m.—Planning & Review Committee Mtg.—Heritage Room
 7:30 p.m.—Square Dancing—Bigham Hall

Friday, March 5

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, March 6

No Meetings

Girl Scout Sunday, March 7

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Communion—Chapel
 9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m.—Evangelism & Outreach Ministry Mtg.—Session Rm.
 12:30 p.m.—Fathers House Church Service—Chapel
 2:00 p.m.—Chapel Choir Practice—Kerr Bldg.
 4:00 p.m.—Worship & Music Ministry Team Mtg.—Session Room
 5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 5:00 p.m.—Middle School Youth Mtg.—Youth Room
 6:00 p.m.—Youth Snack Supper—Kerr Building
 6:30 p.m.—High School Youth Mtg.—Youth Room
 6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, March 8

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Training—Heritage Room
 6:30 p.m.—Scouts
 6:30 p.m.—Administration Ministry Team Mtg.—Fred Brown Class
 7:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Mtg.—Session Room
 8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 9

6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts

Wednesday, March 10

5:45 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program
 6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
 6:30 p.m.—Building & Grounds Comm. Mtg.—Steve Ross
 7:30 p.m.—Deacons Mtg.—Session Rm.
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, March 11

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
 7:30 p.m.—Square Dancing—Bigham Hall

Friday, March 12

4:00 p.m.—Chapel Choir Practice—Kerr Building
 7:00 p.m.—Youth—Bigham Hall
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, March 13

7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast—Kerr Bldg.

Sunday, March 14

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel
 9:30 a.m.—Coffee—Bigham Hall
 9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:30 a.m.—Session Mtg.—Session Rm.
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
 6:00 p.m.—Youth Snack Supper—Kerr Building

Sunday, March 14 (Continued)

12:30 p.m.—Fathers House Church Service—Chapel
 5:00 p.m.—Middle School Youth Mtg.—Youth Room
 5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 6:30 p.m.—High School Youth Mtg.—Youth Room
 6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.
 7:30 p.m.—Children's Musical—Kerr Building

Monday, March 15

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Training—Heritage Room
 6:30 p.m.—Scouts
 7:30 p.m.—Session Mtg.—Session Rm.
 8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 16

10:30 a.m.—Jolly Good Timers—Kerr Bldg.
 6:30 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
 6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts

Wednesday, March 17

Wonderful Wednesday Program
 6:00 p.m.—Disciple II Bible Study—Heritage Rm.
 6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
 7:00 p.m.—PW Council Mtg.—Session Rm.
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, March 18

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
 7:30 p.m.—Square Dancing—Bigham Hall

Friday, March 19

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, March 20

No Meetings

Sunday, March 21

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel
 9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
 12:30 p.m.—Fathers House Church Service—Chapel
 5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, March 22

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Training—Heritage Rm.
 6:30 p.m.—Scouts
 7:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Mtg.—Session Room
 8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 23

6:30 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
 6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts

Wednesday, March 24

Wonderful Wednesday Program
 6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, March 25

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
 7:30 p.m.—Square Dancing—Bigham Hall

Friday, March 26

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, March 27

10:00 a.m.—Easter Eggstravaganza—Bigham Hall

Palm Sunday, March 28

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel
 9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
 12:30 p.m.—Fathers House Church Service—Chapel
 5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 5:00 p.m.—Youth Night Out—Lazer Quest
 6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, March 29

6:30 p.m.—Scouts
 8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 30

6:30 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
 6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts

Wednesday, March 31

5:00 p.m.—Cherub Choir Practice—Children's Choir Room
 5:30 p.m.—Chapel Choir Practice—Children's Choir Room
 6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Wonderful Wednesday program continues through March 24

Pre-School

5:00-5:40 Bible Time/Crafts
 5:40-6:00 Choir
 6:05-6:45 Dinner
 6:50-7:30 Childcare for volunteers' children

K-2nd grade

5:00-5:40 Choir
 5:40-6:00 Recreation/Crafts
 6:05-6:45 Dinner
 6:50-7:30 Bible Time

3rd-5th Grade

5:00-5:40 Bible Time
 5:40-6:00 Recreation/Crafts
 6:05-6:45 Dinner
 6:50-7:30 Choir

Youth

5:00-6:00 Bible Time
 6:05-6:45 Dinner
 6:45-7:30 Choir

Adults

5:45-6:45 Dinner & Fellowship
 6:45-7:30 Bible Study

This semester will run through March 24. Please make dinner reservations by Tuesday noon. Dinner is \$4.00 for adults.

Menus for March are as follows:

March 3 - chicken pot pie, corn, salad, dessert
 March 10 - spaghetti and meatballs, salad and dessert
 March 17 - ham, green beans, salad and dessert
 March 24 - hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, salad, dessert



Girl Scout Sunday March 7

Inclement Weather Policy

At its meeting in February, the Session adopted the following inclement weather policy: on Sundays, if the worship services are cancelled, all church activities that day are also cancelled; on weekdays, if the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are closed, all activities at the church are also cancelled.

Captain Grant Cloaninger

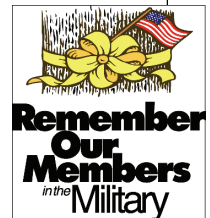
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Don't forget the Yellow Bag Ministry!

Dr. Chuck Williamson, Pastor/Head of Staff
 Rev. Lee Koontz, Associate Pastor
 Sonia Lee, Director of Christian Education
 Judy Clinton, Office Manager
 Cynthia Stokes, Secretary
 Linda Cummins, Webmaster/Administrative Assistant



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Matt Simone, Youth Coordinator
 Gary Forbis, Director of Music
 Marnie Gallagher, Youth Choir Director
 Melinda Johnston, Children's Choir Director
 Leslie Anderson, Organist
 Shirley Simmons, *Philagram* Editor

The Philagram

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