

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

Mint Hill, North Carolina

Volume LVII, No. 4, May 2010

www.philadelphiachurch.org



Dear Friends,

Barbara and I had a wonderful post-Easter trip to the low countries of Europe: Belgium and Holland. There was much to see and enjoy.

Ever since the trip, however, one thing has been weighing on my mind. While in Amsterdam, we visited “The New Church” (which is only 700 years old, as opposed to “the Old Church” that is 800 years old). The New Church is located in the heart of Amsterdam. The Royal Palace is adjacent; the national monument is across the way; there is a huge plaza (sort of like Piccadilly Circus in London) where there are all sorts of street performers, always lots of people milling about. The church itself is a beautiful, breath-taking gothic structure with a magnificent organ, intricately ornate pulpit (that took 15 years to carve), gorgeous stained glass windows. When we went in, we were surprised to see a ticket booth where you had to pay admission to get in. I asked the ticket seller if there would be a worship service at the church which we could attend, and he replied, “No, there hasn’t been a worship service here since 1985.” The only vaguely religious events that take place at the New Church are royal weddings. It’s now a museum.

Something about that broke my heart.

Here is a church in the heart of the city, teeming with people, people who are surely hungry to hear a word of good news, people who surely want to know that they are not alone in the world, and the church is silent, just a monument to the past.

What happened? Could it be that the church lost its sense of mission? Did the church forget that it is there to minister to people who are hurting and in need, people who are lonely and searching? Did the church say in effect, “We are here and if you want what we have to offer, you have to come to us”? And over time fewer and fewer people came until eventually the church ceased to be a church and became instead a museum.

I think that the New Church stands as a warning to all churches who forget their calling, who lose sight of their calling to share the good news of God’s love to all people. I pray that we never forget that. Let us be continually looking for ways that God is calling us to reach out to others, to carry the good news of the gospel outside our walls to where the people are. We have good news to share; let’s share it!

Moving into the future,

From Lee Koontz, Associate Pastor

This month we will celebrate “the fiftieth day”, otherwise known as Pentecost. Pentecost takes its name from the fact that it falls fifty days after Easter Sunday, and it commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus (described in Acts 2). We usually associate Pentecost with loud noises, violent wind, tongues of fire, and, of course, wearing red to church. We’ve come to connect these things with Pentecost because it’s something we celebrate yearly in the church. This year Pentecost is on May 23, and we will certainly be hearing about loud noises as well as wearing red to church. However, we’ll also be connecting Pentecost with something a bit different: the book of Revelation.

As we proceed through our sermon series on Revelation, we hear God’s word to the churches over and over again. Revelation is God’s message to Christians living in difficult times, and the Holy Spirit plays heavily in the drama. John, the author of Revelation, time and again tells us to “listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” As Christian believers we try to do just that, knowing that the Holy Spirit did not leave the scene after the day of Pentecost. It isn’t as if God gave birth to the church and then took off. Instead, the Holy Spirit remains with us, speaking to us and guiding us through whatever challenges we face. Here at Philadelphia, our task is to remain attentive to what God’s Holy Spirit is leading us to do here in this place. We can all pray that God leads us to do and be what God wants rather than what we want. In our listening and our prayer, we may discover that new thing to which God is calling us. We’ll see how God is still creating a church right here where we are, and giving birth to new opportunities, new missions, and new life.

And won’t that be something to celebrate?

Thank You Notes

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your visits, calls, cards and food during and after my short stay in the hospital due to a fall.

I do appreciate your prayers and caring. You mean so much to me.

With love in Christ,
Mary Davis

* * *

Dear Philadelphia Friends,

Thank you for the expressions of sympathy for my family when my mother passed away. We appreciated every gesture more than I can say. Your caring has meant so very much to us.

With love,
Liz Biggers and family

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:

Lisa Newton—From Richard, Augusta & Katie Newton
Bill Boyd's 90th Birthday—From His Family
Sue Aycock—From Brantley Aycock
Sylvia Gill—From Herb Gill
McKenna Metz—From Her Family
Brenda Funderburk—From Bob Funderburk
Abbey Griffin—From Grandmother & Papa
Elizabeth Griffin—From Grandmother & Papa
Bill Griffin—From Becky Griffin
Doc Beard—From Bill & Becky Griffin
Tony Griffin—From Bill & Becky Griffin
Cora Lee Lonon—From Bill & Becky Griffin
Shirline Yeargins—From Henry Yeargins
Jan Hall—From Mickey & Anne Ellington



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

Concerns of the Church

Birth:

Gabriel Luke Governale, son of Luke and Abby Governale, born April 7.

Deaths:

5/28 [Bobby Flowe] brother of Tom Flowe
4/1 [Doris Alexander] mother of Randy Alexander
4/6 [Beth Barkley] grandmother of Susan Griffin
4/10 Herman Bauermeister
4/18 [Jill Rowell] daughter-in-law of Wayne and Linda Rowell
4/23 [John Diehl] father of Joan Anderson
4/25 Charles Theiling
4/26 [Joy Yates] aunt of Clint & Drew Lawrence
4/26 [Bill Blanton] brother-in-law of Martha Carriker Griffin

New Members:

John & Patti Nofsinger
8238 Curico Lane
Charlotte, NC 28227
John & Patti joined by Transfer from Matthews United Methodist Church, Matthews, NC

Graduate Sunday

We will recognize all high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 6, 2010, at the 10:00 a.m. service. Also on that date, the Christian Education Committee



will be sponsoring a breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in Bigham Hall for all the graduates and their families. Please contact the church office at 704-545-6172 if you have a graduate in your family and also to make reservations for the breakfast.

Acolyte training to be offered


All rising 5th-8th graders who are interested in being an acolyte are asked to attend an acolyte training session on Sunday, May 16, at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. One parent of each acolyte trainee needs to attend this session in order to know what is expected and to sign up for times to acolyte. Call Susan Griffin at 704-293-1902 for more information.

Men's Breakfast

The next Presbyterian Men's breakfast meeting will be on Saturday, May 8, at 7:30 a.m. in the Kerr Building.

Flamingos!

Support the youth attending Montreat by flocking someone you love with flamingos. You can have flamingos placed in someone's yard for the cost of \$25.00 for 24 hours. Please call Angie Edwards at 704-545-5142 to reserve the flamingos.

	<p>S u m m e r w o r s h i p s c h e d u l e b e g i n s M a y 30. S u n d a y S c h o o l w i l l b e g i n a t 9:00, w o r s h i p w i l l s t a r t a t 10:00.</p>
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Dorothy Wilson Waltman is recipient of Presbytery's Outstanding Older Adult Award

Dorothy has been a member of this church all of her eighty-six years of life and has been actively involved except for two years immediately after her marriage when she lived in Durham while her husband completed his education at Duke University. Upon their return they began teaching junior and senior high youths and young adults. She continued teaching for more than sixty years.

She has studied the Bible since she was a child and possesses a most amazing knowledge of scripture and an excellent recall of stories of the Bible which she delights in sharing in study groups. It has been almost impossible to tell a difference in her service to the church as she advanced in age. Even after her move to Wilora Lake in December 2007, she still drives to Mint Hill to participate in worship services and to teach when called upon.

She was the first female elder elected at Philadelphia and has served as clerk many times and well into her senior years. She possesses excellent secretarial skills and has not only served as clerk for our Session but has served as recording secretary to many committees and groups of the church including Presbyterian Women. She worked in the Presbytery Office as secretary when there were only two staff people until she and her husband adopted the first of their two sons.

She is the proud mother of two sons, John David and Richard Daniel. She has enjoyed an active roll in nurturing and enjoying the growth of her six grandchildren.

She is a very active lady who is addicted to crossword puzzles, loves to read, and still enjoys knitting beautiful sweaters and clothing. Her items are a favorite at our annual church bazaar.

Her kind nature and sweet demeanor are characteristics that bear witness to Christ working in and through her. Her life epitomizes the Christian conviction and values of purity, kindness, courtesy, service to others and selflessness. She shared a story recently while teaching a Sunday school class at Philadelphia about a very unhappy, disgruntled lady who was a resident at Wilora. She told of going out of her way to say a kind word to her each day and finally seeing a transformation as her disposition changed.

She recently shared that one of her students recently confessed to the reason he always called her Mama (She thought he was trying to be cute!). He said it was because she taught him everything he needed to know in life. She counts this as one of her greatest compliments.

Dot will be honored at a luncheon on May 11 at Sardis Presbyterian Church.

Make your plans for Vacation Bible School!

Your entire family is invited to join us from **June 27 – July 1** for “**Baobab Blast – God’s Great Get-Together,**” our Vacation Bible School. Each night will begin with supper and the opening assembly for everyone at 6:00 in the Kerr Building. Immediately following, all classes will be dismissed to begin their evening activities. There is no cost, but we do ask that you register by June 20 so that we’ll have a count for supper each night.

Children ages 3 years – 5th grades will participate in Bible study, crafts, recreation, and music. Middle School Youth (those who have just completed 6th – 8th grades) will enjoy community building games and activities. High School Youth (those who have completed 9th – 12th grades) and adults will choose between Bible study and African Drumming. For more information, please contact Becky Oke (545-4237), Cathy Haney (533-3471), Amy Cervantes (882-8029), Mary Snyder (545-1747), or Sonia Lee (545-6172). You may also check the church website at www.philadelphiachurch.org for more details.



Captain Grant Cloaninger
Alpha Co. 1-227 ARB
Unit #6061
APO, AE 09378

Sr Airman Rachel Brinegar
727 EACS/DO
APO AE 09315

Davis, Matthew B.
1350 South White Oak Dr. Apt. 333
Waukegan, IL 60085

Cpl. William E. Mills
590 Bear Creek Road
Hubert, NC 28539



Saturday, May 1

8:00 a.m.—PW Circle #7—home of Shirley Simmons

Sunday, May 2

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—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—Kerr Building

4:00 p.m.—Worship & Music Ministry Team Mtg.—Session Room

5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 3

6:30 p.m.—Scouts

7:00 p.m.—Christian Education Ministry Meeting—Heritage Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, May 4

6:30 a.m.—Primary Election—Kerr Building

10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #1—Heritage Rm.

10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #2—Fred Brown Classroom

7:00 p.m.—Congregational Shepherding Team—Session Room

6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts

7:00 p.m.—Youth Committee Mtg.—Youth Room

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Wednesday, May 5

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Heritage Room

7:30 p.m.—Finance Ministry Team Mtg.—Session Room

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

Thursday, May 6

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.

7:30 p.m.—Square Dancing—Bigham Hall

Friday, May 7

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

Saturday, May 8

7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast—Kerr Bldg.

Sunday, May 9

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

12:30 p.m.—Fathers House Church Service—Chapel

5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room

5:00 p.m.—Middle School Youth Meeting—Youth Room

6:00 p.m.—Youth Snack Supper—Kerr Building

6:30 p.m.—High School Youth Meeting—Youth Room

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 10

6:30 p.m.—Scouts

6:30 p.m.—Administration Ministry Team Mtg.—Fred Brown Class

7:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Mtg.—Heritage Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, May 11

10:30 a.m.—Rolls & Records Committee Meeting—Session Rm.

6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts

7:00 p.m.—PW Circle #6—Session Room

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Wednesday, May 12

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Heritage Rm.

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, May 13

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.

7:00 p.m.—Planning & Review Committee Mtg.—Heritage Room

7:30 p.m.—Square Dancing—Bigham Hall

Friday, May 14

7:30 p.m.—Weekday Preschool Program—Kerr Building

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

Saturday, May 15

No Meetings

Sunday, May 16

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.—Middle School Youth Meeting—Youth Room

6:00 p.m.—Youth Snack Supper—Kerr Building

6:30 p.m.—High School Youth Meeting—Youth Room

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 17

6:30 p.m.—Scouts

7:00 p.m.—Session Mtg.—Session Rm.

8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, May 18

10:30 a.m.—Jolly Good Timers—Kerr Bldg.

6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts

Wednesday, May 19

7:00 p.m.—PW Council Mtg.—Session Rm.

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

Thursday, May 20

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.

7:30 p.m.—Square Dancing—Bigham Hall

Friday, May 21

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

Saturday, May 22

No Meetings

Sunday May 23

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.—Youth Night Out

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 24

6:30 p.m.—Scouts

7:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Mtg.—Session Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

Tuesday, May 25

6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Wednesday, May 26

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

Thursday, May 27

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.

7:30 p.m.—Square Dancing—Bigham Hall

Friday, May 28

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

Saturday, May 29

No Meetings

Sunday May 30

9:00 a.m.—Church School

10:00 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m.—Fathers House Church Service—Chapel

Monday, May 31

Church Office Closed

8:00 p.m.—AA Meeting—Old Scout Hut

The church office will be closed for Memorial Day holiday on May 31.

Upcoming Retreats at Montreat Conference Center

- May 16-21 Exploritas Program [Elderhostel] - Adventures in lifelong learning for adults 55 and older
- May 31-June 4 Proclaiming the Text—For pastors, lay leaders, seminary students, and all who seek the tools and inspiration needed for proclaiming the Good News
- May 31-June 4 Christian Education—For Christian educators, pastors, and lay leaders involved in the ministry of Christian education
- June 6-Aug 8 Summer Worship Series
- June 20-26 Worship & Music I—For everyone committed to worship in the church - pastors, musicians, choir members, worship committee members, children, and youth
- June 27-July 3 Worship & Music II
- July 6-10 Women’s Connection—For women of all ages, cultures, and denominations
- July 19-23 Columbia Theological Seminary Lecture Series - Welcoming the Stranger; Presbyterian Responses to the Immigrant Communities
- Aug 8-11 Faithful Politics—For lay leaders, clergy, commissioned lay pastors, seminary students, and all who wish to take part in faithful political engagement
- Aug 8-13 Intergenerational Exploritas Program [Elderhostel] - For grandparents and their grandchildren
- Aug 11-14 Church Unbound—For lay leaders, clergy, commissioned lay pastors, seminary students, and all who wish to take part in fashioning a new vision for the church
- Aug 22-27 Exploritas Program [Elderhostel] - Adventures in lifelong learning for adults 55 and older
- Sept 12-17 Exploritas Program [Elderhostel]
- Sept 19-24 Exploritas Program [Elderhostel]
- Sept 20-22 Healthy Congregations Facilitator Training—For leaders using “Family Systems Theory”
- Oct 3-7 Arts & Sabbath—For anyone seeking Sabbath time and exposure to an art form, no experience necessary
- Oct 3-8 Exploritas Program [Elderhostel]
- Oct 8 A Day with John Bell
- Oct 11-15 Life-Long Living—For older adults
- Oct 21-24 Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat—For anyone interested in the new liturgy of the hours

Happy Birthday!

1	Ted Biggers	18	Frances Leete
1	Jackson Mitchell	18	Augusta Newton
1	Kristen Shearin	18	Ronald Snell
2	Cassie Fauser	19	Frances Middleton
2	Margaret Henry	19	Katy Porter
2	Jack McGahey	20	Justin Woody
3	Thomas Croxton	21	Linda Jamison
3	Michael Street	22	David Fee
3	Bill Weatherly	22	Will Harding
4	Barry Ferguson	23	Michael Lohrer
4	Mason Jeffers	24	William Dennis
4	Frank Lindsay	24	Reilly Donoghue
4	Nathan Sharrett	24	Lois Moss
5	Jane Foreman	25	Randy Alexander
5	Jeff McIntosh	25	Jamie Blanchard
5	Pamela Reed	25	Madison Lewis
5	Chuck Williamson	26	Mike Habenicht
6	Buz Hamilton	26	Linda Horton
7	Steven Hall	26	Helen Smetts
8	Alex Cervantes	26	Sarah Snyder
8	Vera Tweed	26	Ava Yandle
9	Mickey Ellington	27	Diane Czachor-Orr
9	Ernest Jamison	27	Brad Orr
9	Angela Martin	28	Maxine Younce
9	Dillon Stout	29	Brandon Ritch
10	Alexander Ritch	30	Davy Fee
11	Alexis Baker	30	Willie Mae Ford
11	Ronald Gullede	31	Brooke Barnes
11	Marian Vosburgh	31	Mary Snyder
12	Kathryn Hutton	31	Melvin Thomas
13	Barry Long		
13	Doris Miller		
13	Kimberly Rushing		
13	Donna Simmons		
13	Liesl West		
14	Joan Anderson		
14	Lee Koontz		
14	Jill Linscheid		
15	Dale Mayberry		
15	Franklin McSwain		
15	Thomas Watson, Jr.		
16	Rick Davis		
17	Mitchell Anderson		
17	Ted Biggers, III		
17	Tammy Mitchell		
18	Robyn Allen		
18	Matthew Barrett		
18	Jim Carmichael		

Celebrating an anniversary in May . . .

1	Tim & Paula Donoghue
2	John & Carroll Black
5	Gary & Tricia Bursey
7	Joe & Brenda McManus
10	Ronald & Melissa Cochrane
11	Christopher & Kristina Simmons
11	Toby & Marian Vosburgh
14	Brandon & Meredith Ritch
18	Roland & Margaret Henry
18	Ted & Margaret Morris
20	Catherine & Christopher Goetchius
20	Brett & Erin Owens
22	Tom & Tina Duke
22	Yates & Grace Phillips
23	Joseph & Hannah Wilson
26	Ronald & Brooks Gullede
26	Geof & Pam Martin
28	Jim & Helen Swiger
29	Kimberly & Matthew Rushing
30	Tim & Lisa Kendrick
30	Bruce & Mary Muehl
31	Mike & Beth Barnes

Memorials

Doris Alexander—Rosemary Dunn (Current Fund)
Evelyn Allen—Presbyterian Women (Mission Fund)
Oscar Baker—Presbyterian Women (Mission Fund)
Blake Ball—Presbyterian Women (Mission Fund)
Beth Barkley—Patsy Long (Love Thy Neighbor Fund), Carolyn Irwin (Handbell Choir)
Marla Culp—Presbyterian Women (Mission Fund)
Katy Culp—Presbyterian Women (Mission Fund)
Caryl Dellinger—Presbyterian Women (Mission Fund)
Bobby Flowe—Ernest & Linda Jamison (Current Fund)
Sara Higgins—Presbyterian Women (Mission Fund)
Jan Wilkinson—Presbyterian Women (Mission Fund)

Honorariums

Kelly Lohrer—Chapel Choir (Habitat House)
Lori Jaeger—Chapel Choir (Habitat House)
Ann Whaley—Chapel Choir (Habitat House)
Erin Owens—Chapel Choir (Habitat House)

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



www.philadelphiachurch.org

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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May 2010

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